

## THE TIMES-DISPATCH

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1912.

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### HOW TO VOTE ON THE AMENDMENTS.

Three proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia are to be voted upon by the people to-day.

On one ballot is the first proposed amendment. It is to section 117, article 8, of the Constitution of Virginia, "with reference to the powers of the General Assembly concerning the forms of organization and government for cities and towns, and the classifications of cities according to the population."

The effect of this amendment would be to permit cities and towns to adopt improved and more efficient forms of government, commission government being the greatest benefit conferred under the amendment. Every voter who believes in efficient government should scratch the word "against" on the ballot containing this amendment.

On another ballot are the second and third proposed amendments. The second is to section 119 of the Constitution of Virginia with reference to the election of commissioners of the revenue in cities.

The effect of this amendment would be to permit city commissioners of the revenue to be elected popularly instead of being appointed by the judiciary. The result would be to subject commissioners of the revenue to the temptation of underselling those influential politically so that the commissioner could secure re-election in return for violating his duty. This amendment, if passed, would cost the Commonwealth thousands of dollars annually because of the failure of the city commissioners to assess properly and fully. This amendment would undoubtedly increase the tax burden of the people. Scratch out the word "for" on the ballot containing this amendment.

The third proposed amendment is to section 120 of the Constitution of Virginia with reference to the election of treasurers in cities.

The effect of this amendment would be to allow city treasurers to serve indefinitely instead of two terms, as at present provided. The amendment ought to be killed, because the limitation of the tenure of city treasurers to two terms makes them more careful in handling the public money and removing from them the temptation to misuse or misappropriate public money. Scratch the word "for" on the ballot containing this amendment.

These last two proposed amendments were forced through the General Assembly by the officeholders' trust, which has spent an enormous amount to secure their passage by the people to-day. The Constitution requires that every amendment proposed to it shall be passed upon at two successive sessions of the General Assembly, but these two have been passed upon by only one session and are now unconstitutionally submitted to the people by orders of the enemies of the people, who have combined to defeat the will of the people.

Scratch the word "for" on the ballot containing these last two amendments and strike a blow for honest government for the welfare of the people.

### THE CUBAN ELECTION.

The third Cuban presidential election has taken place, and not under the "poofing" influence of the shadows of American bayonets. The turmoil with possible development into another insurrection threatened in the anti-election rioting of some days back, did not materialize, and wisecracks were prophesied that conditions would be precipitated necessitating another American intervention have been confounded.

The authorities demonstrated both their determination and their ability to keep the situation well in hand, and, taken by and through, as a rule, order was exceptionally well maintained, considering the excitable character of the people. It was an exceedingly quiet election for any Latin-American country.

There seems no question of the triumph of General Menocal, the Conservative candidate, over Mr. Zayas, his Liberal opponent. This, as we view it, was eminently to be desired, since, judging the two by their past records and their following, Menocal's policies promise best for the island in every respect.

The main point, however, is that this "free election" would appear to go far towards realizing the ideal of our act of intervention in 1898, which was to enable the Cubans to establish a stable government, capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations, insuring peace and tranquility, as well as of its citizens, as well as of ours.

In that this government, as patron of the republic and as its underwriter in insuring the safeguarding of the interests and the lives of the citizens and subjects of foreign powers on the island, is more concerned than in anything else, compared with its

the ascendancy of this or that party in an altogether secondary consideration.

The manner in which the election passed off is a most hopeful sign that the Cubans have, after all, traveled far on the road of capacity for self-government. It puts an encouraging distance behind the apprehension that in order to fulfill our obligations to Cuba, to ourselves, to humanity and to civilization and to foreign nations we may have to intervene again—a consummation devoutly to be deprecated. For, what with the undercurrent of American impatience with Cuba, and sense of Cuban ingratitude among the American people, a third intervention could hardly fail to mean intervention to stay, and the loading upon ourselves of another territorial, racial and political complication. Of these we have more than enough already.

### PUNISHMENT FOR THE ALLENS.

The plea of Dr. George W. McDaniel that the sentence of death on Floyd and Claude Allen is unjust and should be commuted to a lighter punishment has received wide publicity. Yet public sentiment throughout the State has not changed from the firm conviction that these men are guilty, that they were tried fairly, and that they should be punished in accord with the law. Every man must regret that death ever has to be allotted to fellow-beings by society, but every man must also feel that emotional horror of the individual execution cannot be permitted to overthrow the verdicts of impartial juries and undermine the very power of justice.

Dr. McDaniel urges that these men were the products of their environment and yielded to the impulses of natural passion. Was any murder ever committed that could not advance the same justification? But if any portion of a society is so constituted by environment, education and tradition that it produces crimes of deliberate violence against a whole court, there is no more dangerous precedent to establish than to free its members from the fear of punishment and respect for the law. If the conditions that evolved the Allens themselves be made martyrs and spared the consequences of their crimes, what respect will remain for authority, what check upon future violence, what immutable rule exist by which the community can protect itself against the mob spirit and the reprisals of brute force?

The fear of punishment is a restraining influence on all men. Its power cannot be tampered with by emotion. The facts in the present case do not show that any injustice has been done. There is no reason for making an exception to the stern course of justice. If the social conditions must be changed to prevent repetitions of such murderous acts, let Dr. McDaniel and all other thoughtful men labor to change them. There is ample field for the exercise of charity, self-sacrifice, human tenderness and the fine emotions of the spirit in trying to change the environment so that murder will be blotted from men's imaginations. But until the time shall have come when love has driven death by murder or by execution from our midst, let not small and plastic sentimentality weaken the strong wall of law, behind whose stern protection we work to bring about the nobler visions.

### CO-OPERATION FOR PLAYGROUNDS.

Every agency in Richmond devoted to bettering the bodies, minds and characters of children should get back of the plan for playgrounds, soon to be presented to the City Council. The establishment of adequate recreation facilities under trained and expert supervision is a fundamental necessity in handling the young people of this city. In the comprehensive and definite program mapped out by the field secretary of the National Playground Association, and now about to be submitted to the authorities for action, lies the opportunity of unifying and centering all the social uplift forces on one vital part of the child problem. Too often the forces for good in Richmond are split and nullified by failure to co-operate. Here is the chance to begin real work for a definite, clear-cut, absolutely essential element in our social life. If enough pressure is brought to bear upon the Council, it will respond readily to what is clearly a public demand.

We suggest that the School Board, the Juvenile Protective Association, the Visiting Nurses, the Story Tellers' League, the Equal Suffrage League, the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, the Educational Association, the St. Andrews and Christ Church neighborhood workers, the Health Department, the Board of Charities and Corrections, the Labor Union and the Mother's Clubs join with all other interested organizations to sign the petitions that the Playground Committee will doubtless present, and to appoint their own committees to appear with it before the Council and urge the adoption of this recreation program. Every institution above mentioned has a direct interest in seeing more playgrounds. Their own problems can, in part, be settled by this means. If they fail to support the earnest, practical, business endeavor of men who have spent money and time in perfecting a real program for a real need, they will miss a golden opportunity.

For once, The Times-Dispatch would like to see the philanthropic and educational agencies of Richmond get together and put something through. It is time to get down to brass tacks and work. It would be inspiration and encouragement to feel the power of so many noble movements joined into an instrument of strength that will make the authorities realize their

combined influence. There is plenty of idealism, fine sentiment and splendid talk in the community waiting to crystallize into deeds. But the uplift is woefully lacking in "punch." There is too much "hoping" and "wishing" and not enough of the dreary, commonplace grind that gets things done. We want playgrounds and we want a library. Here's the first step.

### THE NEW ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

The increase of forty-eight votes in the Electoral College must be taken into account in comparing the election results in the various States this year with those of 1910. This considerable addition is due to the growth of population shown by the census of 1910 and the admission to statehood of Arizona and New Mexico. In 1908 the total electoral vote was 483; this year it is 531. Instead of 242 votes, 266 are now needed for the election of a President.

Of the forty-eight new votes, Arizona and New Mexico each contribute three. New York, already the possessor of by far the largest number of votes, has gained six electoral votes. Its total of forty-five votes equals the sum of those of twelve other States, one-fourth of the States of the Union—Arizona, Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming, five States with three votes each; Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Utah and Vermont, five States with four votes each, and North Dakota and Oregon, with five votes each.

Pennsylvania comes next after New York, having added four more electoral votes to what it had in 1908, making thirty-eight in 1912. California and Oklahoma have gained three more votes each. Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas and Washington have gained two more votes each. Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia have secured one more electoral vote each.

The twelve States of the solid South have six more electoral votes than they had in 1908. In the Middle West, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Wisconsin have shown no increase.

With the solid South behind him and with the vote of Missouri and Nebraska, Governor Wilson would have 165 electoral votes, lacking only 101 more to secure the majority essential to nomination. If he carries New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio and Oklahoma (as the New York World points out) he will have seven more than the number necessary for a choice. Even if he does not carry all of those States, the gap will easily be filled by the votes of the numerous smaller States which will cast their vote for him.

### THE ECONOMISTS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

An interesting insight into the state of economic thinking in the country, as well as a valuable comparison between the judgment of economists and public opinion, is afforded by a recent bulletin issued by the Economic League, an organization which is national in scope and which includes among its members leading economists and publicists. The bulletin shows by a preferential vote of the members of the league the subjects which they think are of primary importance and deserving of immediate consideration and action. The first three topics receiving the largest number of votes are "Efficiency in the Administration of Justice," "The Tariff" and "The Monetary System of the United States."

It is doubtful whether popular opinion in its present state would sanction the verdict of the political economists and scientists that better means for administering justice is of first importance, but it is unquestionably true that the public would agree that the subject is a pressing one and should have immediate attention. As to the tariff problem, there is evidently full agreement between the economists and the majority of the people. The returns from to-day's election will undoubtedly demonstrate the fact that the voters of the country are decidedly in favor of reductions in our present high tariff rates.

In the case of banking and monetary reforms, during recent years there has been a steady growth in the popular appreciation of the significance of this problem. The question is technical and complex, however, and has unfortunately been constantly involved in politics. An extensive campaign of education in behalf of banking reforms is now being conducted by commercial and financial interests, and we may expect an increasing popular interest in much-needed banking and monetary legislation. Business and financial stability and progress are dependent upon the establishment of a sound banking system which will afford facilities for rediscount and for elasticity in credit and currency.

Is it too much to hope that this day the high cost of living gets a crimp taken in it?

There is no denying that this year the presidential candidates bear the honorable scars of battle.

The voter who gets his ballot marked straight in this complicated election ought to be on the winning side as a reward for super-intelligence.

### On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

A Voter's Dilemma. I went to hear Tom Marshall speak. He is a man of note; I like the fellow, thorough and through. By jing, he got my goat. When he got through his argument, I want to tell you that I quit the U. S. R. right there And I turned Democrat.

Bill Bryan hit our town next night. I always fall for Bill; He kin charm birds out of the trees. His voice gives me a thrill. When he got through that evening And had give his farewell grin, I'd changed my mind once more and was A Democrat again.

A cyclone struck our town next day. A slight earthquake was felt. Which turned our village upside down; His name was Roosevelt. He is the demarest talker that I guess is running loose. I turned a somersault right there And came out a Bull Moose.

A lot of fellows reach our town. And each one has to speak. And every durned one captures me; I switched five times one week. You ask me what I am right now? The answer can't be wrote. I guess the last one for to speak, • Is goin' to get my vote.

### From the Hicksville Claret.

Professor Jimkey's Catarrh and Mandarin orchestra are ready to furnish music for dances, funerals and other society events. Fast and slow music a specialty. Miss Lottie Bibbins is learning to play on the phonograph at this writing. Cal Binks greased his nose with shoe blacking instead of arniky in the dark the other night, and didn't find it out until two days later, when he drove to town to sell a crate of eggs.

Last Sunday, at the meetin' house, Elder Hudnutt proposed that the church give something for the orphan. Deacon Stubbs arose and proposed that they give three cheers for the orphan. Rev. Hudnutt has started a crusade against the tunk game in the back of the grocery store. He is getting too many poker chips in the plate at the meetin' house, and in these days of financial stringency he is having trouble cashing them.

Miss Amy Fringle is using her high school diploma for a rat at this writing. It makes a very neat roll, and we must rise to remark that education is one of the most useful and valuable assets a young person can have. Elmer Jones smokes a pipe of the Gravel Train, and is saving the coupons. When he gets 7,833,524 more coupons the company will give him a genuine imitation French briar pipe, if he lives. Old Man Sperry died last week and went to the great beyond after reading this paper for nothing for nineteen years. He will probably not find much of a change in the great beyond, as he had for twenty-seven years and the lucrative position at Gil Frickard's sawmill down on Swasey Creek.

Extra Briggs's brindle tried to swallow a scythe and snath last week, and feels quite out about it at this writing. Hank Tumms is quite comic, sometimes. He ought to be written for some patent medicine almanac. There will be a show at Tibbitt's opary house three weeks from next Thursday night and the society is on the out viv. Mrs. Anson Frisby has bought four seats and must be expected to company from away. The name of it is "The Milkmaid's Revenge," direct from one night in New York and two weeks at Benton Harbor, Mich.

### Personal.

Betty: A diet of lemon juice will reduce your weight. Live entirely on lemon juice for one year. If this does not make you thinner out the lemon juice.

Lucy M.: You can make a stylish coat this fall out of a horse blanket and a few tin buttons cut out of the oyster can.

Householder: If the moths have eaten the tails off your dress coat do not repine. You will have a Tuxedo. To exterminate moths hit each moth on the head with a hammer.

Headings of a Feminist. Money makes the mare go, but the automobile makes the money go. Prosperity is the sort of thing that makes a nickel's worth of prunes cost 10 cents.

The wealth per capita in this country would be much larger if we didn't have to support many politicians. We will use one mound one day and the other mound next day, and both on Saturdays. If we begin to injure the grass in the least the park keeper has the right to stop us and we will till the grass is green again. If you are a citizen of Richmond, agreeing to this, please be present Thursday, November 7, at the City Hall at 7:30 P. M., when the Committee on Grounds and Buildings meet. And help us to work it through.

Yours respectfully, WALTER ANDERSON.

### Voice of the People

Young Citizens Want Playgrounds. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Recently I have noticed in the papers that somebody else is seeking a place for us boys and girls to play as well as we. I am a boy fourteen years old, who has just started to

### Abe Martin

PUMPKIN PIE IN LA CART LITTLE GEM



## THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON YOU, MISTER!

By John T. McCutcheon.



High School in September. When I arrive home from school, unless I have something to do at home, I go out in the street and walk or loaf around till about dark, and then I come home and study my lessons. We can't play baseball in the street, because the police stop us, and we can't play football in the street, because the ground is too hard. The only game left for the boys to play is marbles. The other day I saw a man cut up the sidewalk on the side of his house to keep them from playing marbles.

There is Chimbora Park, which has five mounds. One mound is used for tennis and croquet, while the other four are not used for anything. We boys want two mounds for the use of football, and the girls and smaller children can use the other two mounds for their games and sport. I don't see where football does any more harm to the grass than tennis and croquet.

Sometimes, when I go after a boy to come out generally he says, "I am reading 'The Boy's Own Paper' and don't want to come out. There is no place to play." If any one knows that playing on the park doesn't hurt it, "Mike" Pierce, the park keeper, ought to know. He says he believes in letting the boys play football on the park. And it isn't he who is keeping the boys from playing ball on the park, as some people think. He has to carry out instructions of the City Engineer.

Some gentlemen who are not so old but that they can remember when they liked to play are supporting us. But friends, these men can't do it all; everybody has to work for it. Once football was played on the park a whole season, and the City Engineer didn't find it out till in the spring, when the boys started to playing baseball.

A few boys and I have a petition before the Committee on Grounds and Buildings to play football on the park. We had some few to oppose playing football on the park. They said "they believe in beautifying the park instead of ruining it. I believe in beautifying the park myself. And here is a way the boys can play on the park and beautify it."

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### My Neighbors Three.

My neighbors three have gone to rest In the room next door to mine; A kiss and a hug, each held to my breast For a short, sweet space of time. I tucked them in, then stood awhile, And gazed on each dear face. As I wondered how the time I'd give, When they're called to run life's race.

Oh, birdsie mine: Twice a day, and time, When you leave this old room-tide, The strings of my heart will snap like twine. So tarry, my neighbors three! ROBERTA PETTOR.

### Virginia Boys Need Cheaper Land.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—James Bellwood is well worth listening to in any matter pertaining to farming, and his paper on "Virginia Lands" is good reading. Mr. Bellwood is one of Virginia's best citizens, and though he was not born here, he has done a great deal for the good of the State by his example and precept, and possibly his wonderful farm on James River, near Manchester, is the most profitable one in the State.

Mr. Bellwood says we need (the few more need) leadership from and in the person of the hand of the V. P. L. The so-called agricultural school of Virginia.

Now this idea of the V. P. L. turning out practical farmers has a "catch" about it, but there is nothing in it. A moment's reflection will show why a few of the graduates are willing to become practical farmers, and a little more reflection will show that such a lot is of no value at all in determining the efficiency of the State investment in this technical school.

What man would have his son graduate at V. P. L. and take up some poor Virginia land, with the certainty that he could earn only half what

he could earn in his trained work as a technical scientist? Let this young man try to buy some of the "good land" (desirable land), the land that ought to be producing maximum crops to feed the people. The rent of the interest on the investment would "eat him up" in a little while. So he has the choice of working poor land that is "below the margin of cultivation," or paying a big premium for the use of desirable land, with improvements and a market. Therefore he does the sensible thing, and works for a salary as a technical expert, and he no more needs the "out of use" V. P. L. is a failure, as it does not turn out practical farmers.

Now, shall we abolish the V. P. L. or shall we seek out the cause of this unnatural condition that breaks up homes and takes our young men and young women away from the land and stops the production of "wealth" (that the people need and encourages idleness)?

Some say the teaching in the schools is the cause of this strange condition, but it is not true. The cause is hidden and covered up, and certain men make it their business to keep it covered up.

The cause of idle land and idle men is that the desirable land is held out for use for the community increase in value. The land is held out for use for the community increase in value. The land is held out for use for the community increase in value.

of trade, will do well enough, but ocean liners cannot afford to hazard a trip between City Point and Richmond. Small vessels may approach this city; however, Mr. Dabney and his workers must be more ambitious than to rest content with limited facilities. Those who are responsible for deepening the James and for making a port of Richmond deserve it to be written, "Well done, good and faithful servants(s)."

Again, let me call attention to Philadelphia. Remember that the Quaker City is far inland, upon a frozen river during the winter. Study its shipping, learn the number of piers, and find out why big boats can afford to ascend the Delaware. Then get in touch with foreign officials and persuade them that Richmond will support a regular service from Europe.

GASTON LICHTENSTEIN, Richmond.

### QUERIES & ANSWERS

Warren County.

Please tell me what Warren County was in Virginia history. M. C. One of the eight counties created 1854.

### The Parliament of Beasts.

Can you inform me who was the author of the famous "Parliament of Beasts," published in the Richmond Examiner, when it appeared and where I may see it? KINCHEBURG.

### Minor Laws.

Will you be good enough to give in the Query Column a statement of the condition of the liquor laws in the different States? W. A. PARKER.

If we did The Times-Dispatch could not find anything else for you. The Virginia Anti-Saloon League, Foster Building, Richmond, Va., will send you circulars of information.

### Smallest City.

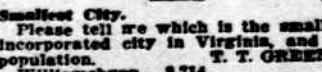
Please tell me which is the smallest incorporated city in Virginia, and its population. W. T. GREEN. Williamsburg, 2,714.

### Negroes in New York.

Can you inform me how many negroes there are in New York City, by boroughs, if possible? W. L. \$5,000 in Manhattan and the Bronx, 27,000 in Brooklyn, 7,000 in Queens and 2,000 on Station Island. This is the estimate of the New York Age, and it shows an increase of 10 per cent since the census of 1900.

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